Faster Master™

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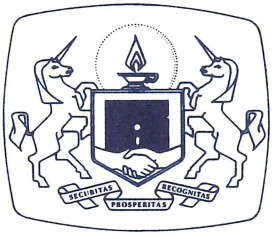

The Software Guild

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Apple®II, II+ or Franklin Ace™ 1000 • 48K RAM
Applesoft • DOS 3.3 • One Disk Drive

PACKAGE CONTENTS

Faster Master Utility disk
Instruction Book
Warranty Card

OVERVIEW

Faster Master™ is an easy-to-use package of utilities for the serious programmer. Faster Master allows you to speed up the DOS commands *BLOAD, BRUN, LOAD,* and *RUN* by a factor of five. Other included utilities allow you to date-stamp files, customize DOS command words, copy disks and more. Most importantly, Faster Master works with standard Apple DOS 3.3 files without modifications to the hardware or disk format.

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TO USE THE "FASTER MASTER" UTILITY

Faster Master speeds up your DOS by a factor of five. Just boot the Faster Master disk and type *BRUN FASTERMASTER.* Then take the Faster Master disk out, insert the disk you want to work with, and run or load the files you wish. (FASTER MASTER only needs to be run once. It will modify DOS in memory so all further file loads or saves will be speeded up.) Don't try to boot the new disk or FASTERMASTER's changes to DOS will be lost!

> **NOTE:** Faster Master will only work with DOS, and only when in memory. Booting another program will disenable the Faster Master in memory. Also it will only speed up programs that are not copy protected (It won't speed up VISICALC). Generally, any disk you can copy with the Apple COPYA utility and whose files you can get a catalog of can use Faster Master.

In sum: Never modify an original disk! Make a copy of the disk before attempting to modify it. Neither The Software Guild or Softsmith assume liability for loss of programs or information as a result of using Faster Master utilities.

TO USE THE "CHANGE DATE" UTILITIES

The last date inside the FASTERMASTER file (also referred to in this booklet as FM) will be used for the current date, unless changed by your program or one of the files provided on the disk. If you have a Mountain Computer Time Clock or software-compatible equivalent, run the file on the disk named: CHANGE DATE WITH CLOCK.

To change the date on boot-up, copy the FASTERMASTER file and whichever date file you want to your disk, naming the date file CHANGE DATE. In your Hello program on your disk add these two lines:

```
0  IF PEEK (48815) <> 76 THEN
       PRINT CHR$(4) "BRUN FASTERMASTER"
1  IF PEEK (49152) = 196 THEN POKE 49168, 0:
       PRINT CHR$(4) "RUN CHANGE DATE"
```

Save your Hello program back to your disk, then boot it. As the disk is booting, press ⟨D⟩. The Change Date program should run and allow you to revise the date, and then return to your Hello program (If in fact your program is named "HELLO").

The current date is displayed at the top of the catalog along with the number of free sectors remaining on the disk. To display the date stamped on each file, type *MON O* then *CATALOG*. The output echo flag must be set to display the file dates.

To access the date from within a program, use the following formulas (M = month, D = day, Y = year 82-97):

```
D = PEEK (46846)
Y = PEEK (46847) / 16
M = 16 * ( Y—INT(Y) )
Y = INT(Y) + 82
```

Special note: Owners of hard disks should keep the file FASTERMASTER on volume one, and the different volumes should access *BRUN FASTERMASTER,V1*. Thus you only have to revise the date once, on volume one.

TO USE THE "COMMAND CHANGER" UTILITY

Command Changer allows you to change the DOS command table stored on disk to anything that you want. Some nice changes are converting DELETE to DEL, CATALOG to CAT, etc. The commands only take effect after you have run the Command Changer program and then re-booted the system with the modified disk. To use, just *RUN COMMAND CHANGER.*

TO USE THE "QUICK-COPY" UTILITY

Just *RUN QUICK-COPY.* The destination disk must have been previously initialized.

HOW THE UTILITIES WORK

With all the additions FM makes to DOS, something had to be removed. The only command that is not available after *BRUN* ing FM is *INIT.* Any utility program that attempts to initialize a disk using the RWTS routine will skip the initialization phase and return with no error, as if the initialization were successful.

The free space routine is at $AE8E. This routine assumes that the VTOC (disk space allocation table) is at $B3BB, and adds the number of bits that are on starting at byte-offset $38 thru $FF.

FASTERMASTER sits at $BEAF-$BFAE (replacing the low-level base init program), replaces the "read range of bytes" routine at $A471 and vectors all *RUN, LOAD, BRUN* and *BLOAD* commands through $BEB2. Here sectors are loaded straight into memory, by-passing DOS secondary "file slow-down" buffers thus loading just as fast as the *VERIFY* command verifies. This routine uses zero-page $1E-$1F, but restores them to the original contents provided an I/0 error doesn't occur.

The date stamp routine is different from other date routines. Unlike other date stampers that save the date as part of the file name and change the length lookup number in DOS to ignore the tacked-on date, the FM date routine does not use the file name for date storage, but rather uses 2 "unused" bytes in the directory.

In memory $B6FE-B6FF are used to store the current date.

```
$B6FE = date
$B6FF = (82—year)*16 + month
  date = (1—31)
  year = (82—97)
 month = (1—12)
```

The hi-byte sector count and bytes $3-$A at the beginning of each directory sector are used to store each file name's date stamp. The date routine is at $B600-B650 and $B6B4-B6FF and is patched in at $B037 where the directory sector is written back out to the disk. The routine at $B600 filters out all commands except *BSAVE, SAVE and CLOSE*. The date printer is at $B630.

WARRANTY CARD

Please take a moment to fill out the enclosed Warranty Card. By having your name on file we will be able to provide better customer service, including information on program updates and replacement of damaged diskettes.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Should you experience trouble with your program, please make sure you have the proper equipment and that it is functioning well. If you still can't get your program to work properly, please contact the dealer where you purchased the software. They have the experience and service network to assist you. Should you require a replacement disk due to damage during normal use, please send us the disk at the address below, together with a note describing the problem. The Software Guild will replace your disk promptly, per warranty provisions.

The objective of The Software Guild is to provide the highest quality software products available. In order to improve our products wherever possible, we are happy to receive comments, criticism or praise. Write to us at:

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